

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A load carrier equipped with a system of fixing to a rear part of a vehicle, comprising:

a longitudinal arm, one end of which is configured to co-operate with a sleeve solidly connected to an element of a structure of the vehicle;

a lever, one end of which is mounted to rotate, with respect to the arm, on a transverse pin carried by the end of the arm and passing through the lever;

return means incorporated between the lever and the arm, exerting a force ~~direction is shown by an arrow to move the lever away from the arm and into an engagement position with the sleeve~~;

means for locking the fixing system;

wherein the locking means includes a handle with a gripping part and a part forming a cam configured to abut against the arm and mounted such that, with respect to the lever, [[it]] the locking means can rotate on a transverse pin carried by [[the]] a free end of the lever, between[:]] an unlocked state and a locked state of the lever with sleeve.

~~an unlocked state, in which movement of the handle around the pin is free between a position in which it abuts against the free end of the lever and a position in which a leading point of the surface of the cam is in contact with the arm, and~~

~~a locked state, in which movement of the handle around the pin and co-operation of the handle with the arm cause the lever to rotate on the pin in a clockwise direction as far as a locked end position of the lever, at which the lever, under stress, is solidly connected to the sleeve.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein a groove ~~contrived in~~ on the surface of the cam is guided along the arm.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The load carrier as claimed in claim 12, wherein the groove and the arm are of complementary shape.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cam includes a leading point that is a point of the surface of the cam furthest away from the pin carried by the free end of the lever.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The load carrier as claimed in claim [[11]] 14, wherein a distance between the pin carried by the free end of the lever and the leading point of the cam is greater than a distance ~~corresponding to a distance~~ between the pin carried by the free end of the lever and the arm, when the lever is in a locked end position.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein, when locking the handle, [[the]] a distance between the pin carried by the free end of the lever and the arm increases after [[the]] a leading point of the surface of the cam has been passed.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pin of the handle carried by the free end of the lever is mounted in translation within a slot contrived located in sides of the lever such that [[the]] a distance between the pin carried by the free end of the lever and the pin carried by the end of the arm can be made to vary.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The load carrier as claimed in claim 17, further comprising means for locking the pin carried by the free end of the lever inside the slot.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a lock to solidly connect the handle to the free end of the lever extending beneath the gripping part.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, further comprising ratchet means for solidly connecting the handle to the free end of the lever extending beneath the gripping part.

Claim 21 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein the return means is a spring.

Claim 22 (New): The load carrier as claimed in claim 11, wherein a top surface of the lever includes a slot that is configured to receive a finger located in the sleeve to engage the load carrier with the sleeve.